

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: VISIT OF F.K. RANGNEKAR TO NASA

FOR SCIATT

1. D.K. RANGNEKAR, EDITOR ECONOMIC TIMES OF BOMBAY AND NEPHEW AND ADVISOR TO PM, VISITED NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER THURSDAY JUNE 27. RANGNEKAR WAS IN U.S. AS DEPARTMENTAL LEADER GRANTEE AND REQUESTED TO SEE GSFC TO LEARN ABOUT ATS-6 AND SITE.

2. RANGNEKAR MET WITH ATS PROJECT PERSONNEL AND INDIAN ISRO REPRESENTATIVE. HE WAS SHOWN SATELLITE CONTROL CENTER AND LOW COST GROUND RECEIVING EQUIPMENT FOR BOTH U.S. HET AND INDIAN SITE PROJECTS.

3. RANGNEKAR DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS NOT EARLY PROPONENT OF AND EVEN NOW QUITE SKEPTICAL. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER COST OF PROGRAM AND SEVERAL TIMES QUESTIONED ITS USE AS A "SPY SATELLITE". IT WAS EXPLAINED COST MISLEADING AS SATELLITE MULTIPURPOSE EXPERIMENTAL AND IF OPTIMIZED FOR ONE
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USE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER.

4. RE SPY QUESTION, THIS NOT POSSIBLE AND COULD NOT HAPPEN AS
(1) PROGRAM UNCLASSIFIED WITH BROAD INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION,
(2) INDIA HAD ACQUIRED IN DEPTH VISIBILITY INTO PROJECT
THROUGH THEIR LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES AT GSFC OVER LAST FEW
YEARS, (3) ALL FREQUENCIES PUBLICIZED, (4) RADIOMETER RESOLUTION
INSUFFICIENT.

5. IN VIEWING HARDWARE, RANGNEKAR SEEMED PARTICULARLY IM-
PRESSED BY INDIAN ACCOMPLISHMENT.

6. AT END OF TOUR HE ASKED WHY SATELLITE COULDN'T REMAIN
OVER INDIA FOR MORE EXTENDED TIME.

7. IT APPEARS VISIT HELPED CORRECT SOME MISIMPRESSIONS.
NASA WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ARTICLES THAT MAY APPEAR IN TIMES
AS RESULT THIS VISIT OR OTHER FEEDBACK EMBASSY OR
CONGEN MAY RECEIVE. KISSINGER

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